

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY****Remarks**

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. No claims have been amended.

*Rejections Under 35 USC § 102*

All claims have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Lopatin et al. US Patent Application No. 2005/0085031 ("Lopatin")

Applicants submit that Lopatin may not be properly used as a 102(a) as its publication date of April 21, 2005 is after Applicants' filing date of February 3, 2004.

In addition, Applicants submit that Lopatin may also not be used as a reference under 35 USC § 102(e) based on its filing date of October 15, 2004, as it is also after Applicants' filing date. If the Examiner relies on the provisional application filing date of Lopatin of October 15, 2003 in any USC § 102(e) rejections, Applicants request that the Examiner cite the specific sections of the provisional application that properly support the subject matter relied upon to make the rejection. In a brief review of the provisional application, Applicants did not find contacting an exposed copper surface with a metallocene compound and contacting the exposed surface with an oxygen-containing compound.

Accordingly, Applicants request that these 35 USC § 102 rejections be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

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